

I. Family 861

Chapter 861: Double Spiritual Body, False Core Combat Power!_3

This is also one of the advantages of Mount Sumeru Cave Heaven.

Ordinary Spirit Vein Cave Mansions, once depleted of Spiritual Energy, can be very troublesome, only able to constantly siphon the surrounding Spiritual Energy.

But Mount Sumeru can actively transport the Spiritual Energy within the Cave Heaven, and even help siphon the Spiritual Energy from Bi Lake Mountain!

“Yes, Master!”

Mount Sumeru immediately responded, mobilizing the Spiritual Energy within the Cave Heaven.

“Splash—”

...

Lu Changsheng sat quietly in meditation, consuming three Elixir Medicines and holding two Superior Grade Spirit Stones.

Within the Qi Ocean Core of his Dantian, liquid Mana surged violently, forming whirlpools that devoured countless nature’s spiritual energy and compressed and condensed it into liquid Mana.

Drip!

Drip!

Drip!

Droplets of iridescent seven-colored liquid Mana entered the Elixir Lake.

It was hard to tell how much time had passed when the liquid Mana in the Elixir Lake reached its limit and roared thunderously.

The Yin Yang Five Elements Foundation Base glowed radiantly at this moment, circulating Yin and Yang and the Five Elements, assaulting the Realm and continuously expanding the Qi Ocean Core.

The Mana in the Elixir Lake revolved around the Dao Foundation during this process, continuously condensing and faintly forming a spherical shape.

Once his Cultivation Level reached the Peak of Foundation Establishment, achieving Perfection, he would attempt to condense Mana into True Essence, ready to break through to Core Formation!

“Boom!”

Lu Changsheng’s Realm shattered like water flowing into a channel.

From the Middle Stage of Foundation Establishment to the Late Stage, for many, is a chasm, an insurmountable gap.

Some might never breakthrough in their lifetime.

But now, before Lu Changsheng, there were absolutely no bottlenecks hindering him, as natural as eating or drinking.

With the breakthrough, the Dao Foundation burst forth with radiant light, and the Mana surged like mighty rivers, washing over his meridians and flesh.

Every Realm breakthrough also slightly elevated a cultivator’s Physical Body.

Although not comparable to Body Refining Cultivators of the same order, it was still extraordinary.

Due to his Body Cultivation, this baptism had little effect on Lu Changsheng.

But during this process, his meridians and Dantian became more condensed and resilient.

“Late Stage of Foundation Establishment!”

A hint of joy appeared on Lu Changsheng’s face, “I’ve finally broken through to the Late Stage of Foundation Establishment!”

Advancing to the Late Stage of Foundation Establishment brought him one step closer to achieving Core Formation.

He directed his Divine Sense towards the Profound Origin Bead within his Qi Ocean Core.

At this moment, the Profound Origin Bead was furiously inhaling and exhaling Spiritual Energy and Mana, constantly rotating and emitting seven-colored twilight.

This Profound Origin Bead could make the Energy Refinement Late Stage comparable to Foundation Establishment, and the Foundation Establishment Late Stage comparable to False Core!

Now, as Lu Changsheng broke through to the Late Stage of Foundation Establishment, the effects of this Profound Origin Bead finally reached their apex!

“Rumble rumble rumble—”

After a long while, the Profound Origin Bead calmed.

Only a faint seven-colored radiance flowed over it, exuding a sacred and profound aura.

“Is this the Mana of False Core Level?”

“If not using Talisman Formation or other methods, merely fighting normally, I’m afraid it would take three moves for me to subdue my past self.”

Lu Changsheng felt the Mana flowing through his body, quietly savoring the indescribable delight of power permeating his body.

Not only his Mana but his Physical Body and the Hundred Refinements Treasure Body Art at this moment had also reached the Seventh Layer's Peak!

It wouldn't be long before he could break through to the Eight Level, reaching the Quasi-Third Order.

"I wonder how my current strength compares to a true False Core Immortal?"

Lu Changsheng pondered in his heart.

Although the Profound Origin Bead could make the Late Stage of Foundation Establishment comparable to False Core,

In reality, he had yet to confront a False Core.

"Mount Sumeru!"

With a thought, he called out to Mount Sumeru, commanding it to pull him into the illusionary realm of Mount Sumeru.

Since he wasn't sure, he might as well use Mount Sumeru to test it!

The next moment, dressed in a blue Magical Robe that rustled without wind, he appeared in a murky realm of grey mists in the Mount Sumeru Illusion.

"Buzz!"

Lu Changsheng looked ahead at the rolling fog, lightly lifted his palm, fingers joined together, and a fiercely sharp seven-colored Sword Qi burst forth.

"Whoosh—"

Layer upon layer of grey mist was pierced.

Afterward, Lu Changsheng patted his Storage Bag, and the True Yang Five Elements Sword appeared in his hand.

“Whoosh, whoosh, whoosh—”

The brilliance of the Five Elements Sword burst forth, tearing through the void and whipping up a storm of Sword Qi, stirring the surrounding grey mist.

“This True Yang Five Elements Sword is just a Middle Grade Spiritual Artifact, it’s completely insufficient now.”

“With my current strength, I am fully capable of wielding Magical Treasures!”

Lu Changsheng looked at the True Yang Five Elements Sword in his hand and shook his head disapprovingly, finding it dull.

This Spiritual Artifact could not support him when he went all out!

Then, an ancient lamp, circulating like seven stars, appeared above his head.

It was his Life-bound Spiritual Artifact, the Seven Luminaries Heart Lamp!

“This Seven Luminaries Heart Lamp also needs resources to be recast; otherwise, nurturing it slowly like this will clearly not keep up.”

Lu Changsheng looked at his Life-bound Spiritual Artifact and exhaled deeply.

This Seven Luminaries Heart Lamp, nurtured by him over the years, was just barely a Middle Grade Spiritual Artifact.

Now it was also unable to keep up with his pace.

At this moment, Lu Changsheng realized that he had always been benevolent and never sought conflict; yet now, he found himself without a single handy Magical Treasure.

If he were to face a False Core Immortal, he would suffer from not having a Magical Treasure!

“I wonder if I can activate a Superior Quality Magical Treasure?”

Lu Changsheng thought of the Superior Grade Magical Robe he was wearing.

In theory, as a Superior Quality Magical Treasure, the Fate-Defying Robe wasn't something he should be able to activate at his level.

But there was no harm in trying.

Immediately, he urged the Mana in his Dantian, madly infusing it into the Fate-Defying Robe.

Suddenly, the prohibitions within the robe started to flicker.

But that was it.

No matter how much more Mana he expended, he could not fully activate the might of this robe.

He could only barely make use of a few of the robe's teleportation prohibition effects, unable to achieve invisibility in the void.

He would have to wait until he reached Core Formation to fully unleash this robe's potential.

“A Superior Quality Magical Treasure is still too much of a stretch; using such a Magical Treasure is more loss than gain.”

“With my strength, I can at most handle a Lower Grade Magical Treasure.”

“However, I can start preparing to forge the Seven Luminaries Star Sword from the Seven Luminaries Great Freedom Sword Scripture!”

“Even if it doesn’t become a Magical Treasure, just seven Magical Treasure embryos would still be tremendously powerful!”

Lu Changsheng’s eyes slightly narrowed, thinking of the accompanying Magical Treasure from the Seven Luminaries Great Freedom Sword Scripture, the Seven Luminaries Star Sword!

With this set of Flying Swords once completed, he could set up a simplified Seven Luminaries Sword Formation, significantly increasing his combat strength!

However, seven Magical Treasures Flying Swords would be enormously expensive.

Many materials couldn’t be bought in the market and had to be acquired through various channels, trading items for items.

Although he was quite wealthy, comparable to a Nascent Soul Cultivator, forging these seven Magical Treasure embryos was still a difficult burden to bear.

“Forget it, I’ve always been kind and don’t like conflicts, there’s no rush to forge these Seven Luminaries Star Swords; I can slowly gather the materials.”

Lu Changsheng shook his head, dismissing the idea of forging this set of Magical Treasure embryos now.

After all, if he really had to face an enemy now, he still had Talisman Formations, Nine Treasures Ruyi Bone, Endless Guileful Head, and The Dark Demon Corpse.

These were enough for him to face an average Nascent Soul Cultivator.

Immediately afterward, he willed Mount Sumeru to send him back to his Cave Mansion.

He inquired about how his attack power compared to Xiahou Wuwo before.

Mount Sumeru immediately indicated that his Sword Qi power just now was still much weaker than Xiahou Wuwo, but within a range where they could contend.

“In that case, I suppose I do have the normal False Core strength.”

Lu Changsheng raised an eyebrow, inwardly thought.

Originally, Xiahou Wuwo in the Mount Sumeru illusion had used a Life-bound Magic Treasure to attack, while he had only used a Middle Grade Spiritual Artifact.

Given a Magical Treasure, of course, he would be considered at normal False Core strength.

“But, I still have two more draws; who knows, maybe I’ll get something good.”

Lu Changsheng’s eyes narrowed slightly.

Although both his children were Spiritual Bodies with flaws.

In the system’s judgment, both were Spiritual Bodies, so he obtained two draws.

This also confirmed for Lu Changsheng that as long as he had a child born as a Spiritual Body, he would have a draw opportunity.

“System, draw!”

Lu Changsheng spoke aloud.

Chapter 862: Evilex Banisher Elixir, Thunder Gang Dragon Flame!

[Ding! Congratulations, host, for obtaining a Third Rank Evilex Banisher Elixir!]

[The reward has been sent to the System Space, and the host can check it at any time.]

An elixir medicine pattern immediately emerged from the Great Roulette, accompanied by a system notification sound.

“Evilex Banisher Elixir?”

Lu Changsheng raised an eyebrow and looked towards the System Space.

Immediately, information about the Evilex Banisher Elixir appeared.

...

[Elixir Medicine: Evilex Banisher Elixir]

[Quality: Third Rank]

[Description: The Evilex Banisher Elixir can break Gu Poison, seals, curses, prohibitions, and other divine skill effects.]

Lu Changsheng looked at the effects of the Evilex Banisher Elixir in front of him, his brow slightly furrowed.

Although this effect is alright and could solve some unexpected situations,

currently, it was of little use to him and would only collect dust.

“Right now, with so many elixir medicines, only the Spirit Pill, Purple Mansion Elixir, and the Coagulation Crystal Elixir are somewhat useful.”

Lu Changsheng gently shook his head and looked at the system to continue, “Draw the lottery!”

The System’s Great Roulette in front of him began to spin again.

[Ding! Congratulations, host, for obtaining a Third Rank Origin Flame Seed: Thunder Gangyan!]

[The reward has been sent to the System Space, and the host can check it at any time.]

“A Third Rank Origin Flame Seed? Is this... Heavenly Spiritual Fire!?”

Lu Changsheng looked at the reward and a trace of surprise showed on his face.

The world is filled with many Spiritual Fires.

Once cultivators obtain the Origin Flame Seed of these Spiritual Fires, they can claim them for their own!

These Spiritual Fires have immense applications.

Not only are they incredibly powerful and can be used for fighting techniques, but they are also invaluable to alchemists and artifact refiners!

For example, a lot of Second Rank Elixir Medicines, without an alchemy chamber or Earth Core Fire, Lu Changsheng couldn't possibly refine them.

Because the flames he condensed with his mana were insufficient to support him for long periods of alchemy, and the temperature was not high enough.

But if he had a type of Heavenly Spiritual Fire, he wouldn't need to rely on Earth Core Fire.

Moreover, according to the records in books, using such Heavenly Spiritual Fires for alchemy and artifact refining would not only increase the success rate but also significantly improve the quality of the elixir medicines and magic artifacts produced!

"Thunder Gangyan, a Third Rank Flame Seed, seems to be quite an impressive Heavenly Spiritual Fire."

Lu Changsheng looked towards the System Space.

Instantly, information about Thunder Gangyan appeared.

[Flame Seed: Thunder Gangyan]

[Quality: Third Rank]

[Description: An intense flame from the heart of a volcanic magma, after enduring countless thunder tribulations and fusions, develops a hint of spirituality, with a wild and dominant attribute.]

“Thunder Gangyan, with a wild and dominant attribute? Seems like this type of Spiritual Fire is more suitable for refining artifacts rather than alchemy.”

Lu Changsheng, with an eyebrow raised, looked at the Thunder Gangyan before him.

As a Second-tier Top Level alchemist, he had some understanding of flames,

knowing that for alchemy, one would mostly use flames of a gentler nature.

Only a small number of elixir medicines would require such wildly dominant flames.

“However, at least it’s a Third Rank Heavenly Spiritual Fire, even if not for alchemy, it’s a good option to have on hand.”

A smile appeared on Lu Changsheng’s face.

He did not immediately extract and refine the Heavenly Spiritual Fire.

This trip was simply a chance to take a break and draw a lottery.

He had just broken through and had been delayed for quite some time; now, it was natural to accompany his wives and concubines first.

...

At the Zhao Family of White Tiger Mountain.

“What did you say? Spirit Stone veins were found deep within the mine near Bihu Lake Mountain in Black Cloud Mountain Range!?”

The Zhao Family Ancestor showed a look of surprise upon hearing the report from the Zhao Family Patriarch.

When Bihu Lake Mountain was first established, Lu Changsheng sold many properties and veins under his name or cooperated with other families.

As a neighboring Foundation Establishment Family, their White Tiger Mountain Zhao Family took over a vein at the mine.

Unexpectedly, beneath that vein, a Spirit Stone mine was discovered.

This this this...

“Yes, Ancestor, I went to verify it. This Spirit Stone mine is not small. It contains Middle Grade Spirit Stones and can be mined for at least fifty to sixty thousand pieces.”

The Zhao Family Patriarch spoke with joy in his voice,

fifty to sixty thousand Spirit Stones were not a small number for their Zhao Family!

“Fifty to sixty thousand!?”

The Zhao Family Ancestor’s eyes narrowed sharply upon hearing this.

This was not a small number indeed.

And that was just an initial estimate!

He asked gravely, “Does the Lu Family of Bihu Lake Mountain know about this?”

“These past ten years, the Lu Family has only taken care of distributing profits without inquiring into matters. It was only since last year that a little girl would come to oversee and check.”

The Zhao Family Patriarch shook his head and said, “So the Lu Family still doesn’t know about this Spirit Stone mine.”

“The Lu Family doesn’t know yet...”

The Zhao Family Ancestor’s face showed a thoughtful look as he said, “If we were to hide this, how long could we keep it a secret?”

He naturally didn’t want to give this Spirit Stone mine to the Lu Family.

Once informed, their Zhao Family would only get a sip of the soup, at best.

“Ancestor, if the Lu Family of Bihu Lake Mountain finds out, our family may face big trouble,” the Zhao Family Patriarch said, showing a worried and fearful expression.

Although the Lu Family of Bihu Lake Mountain had only been established for just over a decade,

its founder, Lu Changsheng, was renowned and formidable.

Just into his Foundation Establishment, he relied on Talisman Formations to slay three Foundation Establishment Cultivators of the Yu Family, thus establishing the Lu Family of Bihu Lake Mountain.

Later, with his wife Lu Miaoge, they killed five Foundation Establishment Cultivators in the Red Leaf Valley Market!

The family also had an Array Master in residence!

Such strength and battle records, even if exaggerated and relying on external items, were undoubtedly impressive!

They were not something their Zhao Family could compare to!

“I am well aware, which is why I am asking you how long we can keep this a secret.”

The Zhao Family Ancestor looked at his kin’s fearful face with a touch of disappointment,

knowing that cultivation was a struggle for the Great Dao!

Now that such an enormous opportunity had presented itself, his descendents were showing fear at the mere name of the other party, which was very disappointing.

“We can conceal it for some time at present, but once we start mining in full force, at most half a year from now, they will undoubtedly notice something amiss.”

Chapter 863: Evilex Banisher Elixir, Thunder Gang Dragon Flame!_2

“Moreover, I have already investigated; this girl is not just putting on a show or going through the motions—she checks thoroughly every time.”

The Zhao Family Patriarch thus spoke.

“What is this girl’s name, and is there a way to bribe her?”

The Zhao Family Ancestor continued to inquire.

“This woman is named Lu Ruyi and is the daughter of Lu Changsheng’s concubine.”

“The Lu Family of Blue Lake Mountain is famously generous toward the family’s disciples. It may not be easy to bribe this woman.”

...

A serious expression appeared on the Zhao Family Patriarch’s face.

“Lu Ruyi?”

The Zhao Family Ancestor heard the name but did not remember anything particular about it.

Being the Zhao Family Ancestor, he was familiar with the situation at Blue Lake Mountain.

However, Lu Changsheng had too many children to keep track of them all.

He mainly remembered that the Lu family once had two Fourth Grade Spiritual Root talents, named Lu Qingxuan and Lu Wangshu.

Then, the person in charge of the Lu Family’s Puppet Factory seemed to be... Lu Xianzhi.

“If this woman is not yet married, send someone to test the waters and make contact with her.”

“If it seems feasible, go to Blue Lake Mountain to propose a marriage and see if we can tie her to our Zhao family.”

The Zhao Family Ancestor spoke gravely.

Their family had suffered heavy losses in the battle at Blackwater Pool years ago.

Not only had a Foundation Establishment Ancestor died, but several Foundation Establishment seeds as well.

Over the years, he vigorously supported and nurtured new blood, and gradually the family situation improved.

However, this also caused the family to be caught in a financial crunch.

If they could develop this Spirit Stone mine, it would not only relieve the family’s situation but also provide the finances to cultivate new Foundation Establishment Cultivators!

...

Blue Lake Mountain.

Lu Family Mansion.

“Dad, these are our family’s Immortal Seedlings from the Xuan generation this year.”

Lu Qingsong had gone to Ruyi Prefecture for the Spirit Root Testing Ceremony and brought back the Lu family’s disciples who possessed Spiritual Roots to Blue Lake Mountain.

“Greetings, Grandfather!”

The two from the Lu Family’s Xuan generation greeted Lu Changsheng with respect.

Their eyes were somewhat curious as they sized up the grandfather before them.

They had heard from their parents that their own grandfather was an Immortal, and now they could also undertake Cultivation.

“What are your names?”

Lu Changsheng asked the two children softly.

“I am Lu Xuanchan, and I am Lu Xuanyu.”

The two children crisply responded.

“Xuanchan, Xuanyu.”

Lu Changsheng nodded slightly, asked a few simple questions, and then had his son, Lu Yun, settle the two children.

As time passed, now and then an Immortal Seedling would appear among the worldly descendants of the Lu family.

This year, producing two was considered quite good.

After all, the total number of the Lu family's third generation had reached one hundred ninety-seven, almost equal to the number of his children.

But among these one hundred ninety-three children, only thirteen were Spiritual Root children.

Moreover, nine out of these thirteen were from Blue Lake Mountain, born to Lu Yun, Lu Xianzhi, and others.

One can only say that with both parents being mortals, birthing a Spiritual Root is extremely difficult.

They could only rely on the large numbers to luck out a few.

A month later.

Lu Changsheng, recalling the Thunder Gangyan in his System Space, expressed that he sensed something and was ready to enter Closed-door Cultivation for a period.

Naturally, Lu Miaoge, Ling Zixiao, and others had no objections.

After all, this is the daily routine of most Cultivators.

Like Lu Miaoge who often entered Closed-door Cultivation, sometimes staying in his Cave Mansion for ten days or half a month.

For Lu Changsheng, spending most of his days leisurely and accompanying his wives and children was really an anomaly among Cultivators.

“Extract!”

In the Changsheng Hall, inside his Cave Mansion, Lu Changsheng looked at the System Space and silently uttered a command.

Immediately, a palm-sized purple-red flame appeared in mid-air, exuding an intense heat.

As it burned and tumbled, it seemed as though a purple Thunder Snake was moving through the flame, wildly and terrifyingly, causing significant distortions in the space around the flame.

“Deserving of a Third Rank Heavenly Spiritual Fire, truly terrifying like this!”

Lu Changsheng slightly stepped back, marveling at the Thunder Gangyan before him.

From the System’s information on the Thunder Gangyan, he knew that if he could refine this Thunder Gangyan, his combat power would increase by a level, giving him an additional method.

However, such a Heavenly Spiritual Fire that had developed a sentience was not easy to refine and subdue.

“It’s good that I have an edge!”

Lu Changsheng took a deep breath and then slowly exhaled.

Next, he took out a Magical Sword Artifact and forcefully slashed his palm, causing blood to flow and cover his hand.

“Come on, little guy!”

Lu Changsheng’s Mana flowed, enveloping his hand as he slowly extended it into the Thunder Gangyan.

Even though the Thunder Gangyan had a sentient consciousness and no intention to harm him,

just the innate power of the flame made his palm burn and sting, as if his skin was against a red-hot iron.

“Damn! If it weren’t for my breakthrough to the late stage of Foundation Establishment, possessing the Profound Origin Bead, and having Mana comparable to a False Core, even with the System’s help, it would be impossible to refine such a Third Rank flame!”

Lu Changsheng felt the scorching pain in his palm and sharply inhaled.

If it weren’t for the System’s information about the Thunder Gangyan giving him confidence and knowing he could refine it, he would definitely have given up.

The Thunder Gangyan, sensing Lu Changsheng’s pain, the purple snake within started to draw his fresh blood.

As it absorbed the blood, the burning flame gradually diminished until it condensed into a thumb-sized purple-red Origin Flame Seed!

This was the Origin Flame Seed of the Thunder Gangyan!

From the information in the System, Lu Changsheng knew that when the Thunder Gangyan initially formed, it was nearly the size of half a mountain.

Only through continuous condensation did it gradually take this shape.

Only then could it truly be called a Heavenly Spiritual Fire!

“The real test of skill has arrived.”

Lu Changsheng looked at the thumb-sized flame seed in his hand, his eyelids twitching.

Chapter 864: Evilex Banisher Elixir, Thunder Gang Dragon Flame!_3

Next, he needed to swallow the seed of fire and then refine and assimilate it with his mana.

This was the most dangerous step in refining Heavenly Spiritual Fire!

Whether they were Energy Refining Cultivators, Foundation Establishment Cultivators, or Nascent Soul Immortals, the internal parts of the body were always the most fragile.

Especially the meridians and Dantian.

If something went wrong, at best, cultivation could be half-ruined; at worst, one could die!

Thus, refining Heavenly Spiritual Fire was very dangerous!

...

Most alchemists and artifact refiners in the world would choose to cultivate some sort of Innate True Fire technique and Divine Skills.

Only a very few dared to refine Heavenly Spiritual Fire!

Yet before refining, they would prepare various Heavenly and Earthly Treasures to minimize risks.

Or, being Nascent Soul Immortals, they would choose to refine Second Rank Heavenly Spiritual Fire and then gradually nurture it.

Someone like Lu Changsheng, who prepared nothing and even dared to refine Heavenly Spiritual Fire of a higher rank than his own, was truly one of a kind!

Anyone who saw this would exclaim, "Aren't you seeking death?"

"If not for this control talisman, this thing would really be creepy, practically playing with life."

Lu Changsheng looked at the seed of fire and clicked his tongue in emotion.

He took out several ice-attribute talismans and healing talismans from his Storage Ring, along with one or two bottles of Elixir Medicines.

Then, his mana spread throughout his body, and he raised his palm and tossed the seed of fire into his mouth.

Though Mr. Lu cherished his life and disliked suffering,

He was willing to endure some minor hardships for a great reward!

After all, not being able to endure hardships and not liking to endure hardships were two different things!

Once the seed of fire entered his mouth, Lu Changsheng immediately closed his lips tightly, grunted, and his face turned slightly pale.

He bore the intense burning heat inside his body, closed his eyes, sat cross-legged, and his Divine Sense sank into his body.

One could see that once Thunder Gangyan entered his body, it immediately dispersed into strands of fine purple-red flames circulating through his meridians.

Even though these flames were extremely fine, like strands of hair, they carried intense heat and seemed as though they were going to burn and melt his flesh and muscles.

“Puff puff puff—”

The mana covering Lu Changsheng’s body was constantly being consumed.

He immediately took the prepared Elixir Medicines and talismans, allowing a cold stream to surge throughout his body to suppress the scorching heat.

Then, he began to refine the seed of fire with the Seven Luminaries Great Freedom Sword Scripture and the Hundred Refinements Treasure Body Art in operation.

As his cultivation techniques operated, the Thunder Gangyan was very cooperative.

This was also the confidence he had to dare refine the seed of fire!

Otherwise, during this process, if the seed's inherent consciousness began to fiercely resist, causing the flames to become more furious and the fire to blaze, it would be extremely dangerous!

“Hum hum hum—”

At this moment, it seemed as if a dragon's roar sounded within Lu Changsheng.

His Dragon Roar Physique instinctively awakened, unleashing a fierce and domineering Yang energy that swept out, rushing towards the Thunder Gangyan, aiming to suppress the source of the seed and aid in its refinement.

“Huh, the Dragon Roar Physique has such an effect?”

Lu Changsheng looked surprised.

Although he vaguely knew about the Dragon Roar Physique,

He was unaware of the specific powers and effects of this spiritual body.

Unexpectedly, the Dragon Roar Physique could actually help him refine Heavenly Spiritual Fire!

“Could it be because both Dragon Roar Physique and Thunder Gangyan possess dominating attributes of extreme Yang?”

Lu Changsheng guessed in his heart.

At this moment, he personally experienced the effects of having a top-level spiritual body!

No wonder many top-tier techniques, treasures, and spiritual beasts, which ordinary cultivators found difficult to subdue, were easily subdued by geniuses.

Because with good talent, facing these things was supposed to be much simpler and easier!

Without much thought, Lu Changsheng calmly refined the origin of this flame seed.

With the active cooperation of the Thunder Gangyan and the help of the Dragon Roar physique, the refinement process became much smoother instantly.

During this process, Lu Changsheng realized that the Dragon Roar of Yang Energy was continuously merging into the Thunder Gangyan in his body.

Accompanied by the Thunder Gangyan circulating through his meridians, it gradually fused with his physical body, meridians, and mana!

This process was very mystical, causing some inexplicable changes to the Thunder Gangyan!

Just like this, time passed little by little.

He didn't know how much time had passed.

The thumb-sized flame seed fused all the diffused purple-red flames and re-formed into a small flame.

Lu Changsheng had initially refined this flame seed and could roughly control this cluster of Thunder Gangyan.

But he still needed to be careful in controlling it, otherwise, a careless mistake could injure himself.

He did not stop and continued refining the Thunder Gangyan, preparing to refine it all at once.

As the Dragon Roar of Yang Energy and Thunder Gangyan kept merging, the origin of the flame transformed into a purple-golden Thunder Dragon, possessing a more divine and domineering aura.

This made the flame circulate and wander through his meridians repeatedly, gradually tempering his meridians and bones, accelerating the operation of his Hundred Refinements Treasure Body Art at this moment.

He didn't know how much time had passed when Lu Changsheng completely refined the Thunder Gangyan.

“Boom boom boom—”

At this moment, his physical body radiated brilliant light, emitting a terrifying pressure of blood and qi, with countless purple-red flames rolling out from his body, very terrifying!

“Thunder Gangyan! Unexpectedly, the Thunder Gangyan is such a perfect match with the Dragon Roar physique, and a perfect match for me!”

“Now this Thunder Gangyan can be called Thunder Gang Dragon Flame!”

Lu Changsheng opened his eyes, and within his ink-black pupils, two clusters of purple-golden flames rose and diffused, looking fierce and domineering.

The diffuse purple-red flames in the cave mansion, under his control, transformed into a purple-red flood dragon, akin to a snake and dragon intertwined, coiling around his body and exuding a scorching and terrifying aura!

Normally refining this Thunder Gangyan would never result in such power!

But this Thunder Gangyan matched extremely well with the Dragon Roar physique!

With a determined effort, he transformed this Thunder Gangyan into his personal spiritual fire.

Now he not only perfectly controlled the Thunder Gangyan, but also slightly enhanced its power!

“Not only that, under the effect of the Thunder Gangyan and the Dragon Roar physique, my Hundred Refinements Treasure Body Art also directly broke through to the eighth level, and my body refining reached the quasi-third-order level!”

“Now, if I engage in close combat, relying on this Thunder Gang Dragon Flame, false core cultivators stand no chance against me!”

Lu Changsheng stretched his body, immediately causing crisp ‘crackling’ sounds all over, while the surrounding flames gradually disappeared.

Although he refined the Thunder Gangyan into his personal spiritual fire, it still consumed mana.

“To break through, I still need to rely on drawing lots and spiritual bodies.”

“I wonder what other effects the Flawless Heavenly Fragrance Body has besides extending life, bewitchment, and speeding up cultivation.”

“As another top-level spiritual body, the effect of the Dragon Roar physique is so astonishing, the Flawless Heavenly Fragrance Body should not be any less impressive.”

Lu Changsheng exhaled deeply, returning to his normal state, murmuring to himself.

He thought about whether he could get more of this extremely yang and rigid Heavenly Spiritual Fire in the future, to set one up for his son, Lu Lingxiao, as well.

After all, as his father, he had already tested it, and the Dragon Roar physique was really useful, matching perfectly with the Heavenly Spiritual Fire!

Chapter 865: The Nine Netherhound Breakthrough, Li Feiyu Returns!

Lu Changsheng walked out of his cave mansion feeling refreshed and realized he had been in closed-door cultivation for nearly two months.

He took the Ancient Beast Taming Charm from Ling Zixiao’s hand, and the voice of Hong Lian echoed in his mind, bringing him news.

“Hmm? The Nine Netherhound has advanced to the Second Order?”

A look of joy appeared on Lu Changsheng’s face.

Although he no longer considered Second Order strength as something significant,

the wish to fly on the back of the Nine Netherhound had long since been shattered.

...

But it was still Second Order strength after all!

An extra Foundation Establishment Spiritual Pet to guard the home!

“Yes, Young Master.”

Inside the Ancient Beast Taming Charm, Hong Lian’s voice sounded.

Immediately after, Lu Changsheng walked out of Changsheng Hall and had her release the advanced Nine Netherhound from the Ancient Beast Taming Charm.

“Hum—”

The Ancient Beast Taming Charm shimmered with colorful lights, and a shadowy light burst forth; it was indeed the Nine Netherhound.

The Nine Netherhound’s body was now enormous, standing about three meters tall.

With a head like a wolf’s, ferocious and terrifying, with vertical scarlet pupils between its brows, interlocking sharp fangs that were chillingly cold and intimidating beyond measure.

Its body was covered in dense, dark hair, but if one were to comb through the hair, they could see a layer of glossy, black, scales, hard and cold.

“Not bad, not bad!”

As Lu Changsheng sized up the Nine Netherhound before him, he stepped forward to stroke its fur, smiling.

The dog before his eyes had been his first pet beast, who had accompanied him for so long; there were quite a few emotions there.

“Come, let me see just how strong you are.”

Lu Changsheng gestured to the Nine Netherhound before him with a curl of his finger, signaling it to make a move against him and test its power.

“Awooo—”

The Nine Netherhound howled towards the sky, its body surging with demonic power, creating a fierce wind.

This was not just a mere roar.

It was a sonic attack, carrying a terrifying and ferocious force.

Ordinary Energy Refining Cultivators, or even Demon Beasts, would be shaken to their core at such a roar, bleeding from all orifices and trembling with fear.

“Continue.”

Lu Changsheng nodded, signaling the Nine Netherhound to keep going.

“Pfft—”

The Nine Netherhound immediately turned into a blur, pouncing towards Lu Changsheng with claws like daggers glinting with a cold light.

“Bang!”

Faced with such an onslaught, Lu Changsheng remained calm and still, raising his hand to meet it head-on.

“It’s about at the middle stage of the Second Order in Body Refinement.”

He commented aloud.

For a Heavenly-Rank Bloodline Demon Beast like the Nine Netherhound, even just having broken through to the Second Order, it already possessed strength surpassing that of an ordinary Foundation Establishment Cultivator.

“Roar!”

From between the crisscrossed fangs of the Nine Netherhound, black ripples pulsed, giving its teeth an unstoppable cold gleam.

This was its strongest attack, capable of damaging even Spiritual Artifacts.

Lu Changsheng looked at the sharp fangs, his mouth twitching, and decided against experiencing a dog bite.

He flicked his finger and sent a blade of Sword Qi towards the Nine Netherhound.

In an instant, the Nine Netherhound’s fur bristled like pine needles, exuding a dark luster that deflected 30 percent of the Sword Qi’s strength.

Then, like black metallic scales, it resisted and dissolved the Sword Qi, with only a few strands of fur drifting down.

“Very good.”

Lu Changsheng nodded in satisfaction.

He was very pleased with the Nine Netherhound's strength, high attack power, high defense, and strong vitality.

If it could advance further and awaken its Bloodline Supernatural Powers, its strength would leap to another level.

But seeing such Demon Beast strength, he couldn't help but think of Azure Phoenix Immortal's feat of fighting the three Demon Kings alone.

Rumor had it that these three Demon Kings all possessed Heavenly Grade Bloodlines, with astonishing battle prowess.

In comparison, this Azure Phoenix Immortal was indeed quite impressive.

Even if the so-called solo combat included riding a Third Order mount and bringing 500 Dao Soldiers,

his combat strength was unquestionable!

"Having been in the Ancient Beast Taming Charm for so long, let's let you out for a while."

Lu Changsheng looked at the Nine Netherhound before him and pondered aloud.

Even though his family had the Mount Sumeru Tree King as its defender,

it was not practical to activate the Great Formation and rely on Mount Sumeru for every situation that arose.

Therefore, it made sense to let the Nine Netherhound preside over the home openly.

Next, Lu Changsheng informed Ling Zixiao and Lu Miaoge about the Nine Netherhound's advancement to the Second Order.

After consulting, the three decided the Nine Netherhound would become the Clan Guardian Spirit Beast of Bihu Mountain, with the current Family Head of the Lu Family taking care of and managing it!

In this way, when the family faced some issues, the Family Head would also have the capacity to solve and deal with them.

There was no need to notify Lu Changsheng, Lu Miaoge, or Ling Zixiao about everything.

Then, Lu Changsheng called Lu Miaoyun and Lu Yun over to inform them about the Nine Netherhound.

“Xiao Hei has grown so big?”

“Xiao Hei has advanced to a Second Order Monster Beast?”

Lu Miaoge and Ling Zixiao were alright, as they were aware of many aspects of Lu Changsheng’s situation.

Lu Miaoyun and Lu Yun, however, were quite surprised to see the Second Order Nine Netherhound before them.

After all, a Second Order Demon Beast was equivalent to a Foundation Building Great Cultivator!

Even though Bihu Mountain now boasted Lu Changsheng, Lu Miaoge, Ling Zixiao, and Bai Ling—four Foundation Establishment Cultivators—the addition of a Second Order Demon Beast was still astonishing.

Especially since this Second Order Demon Beast had once been an ordinary household dog in Qingzhu Mountain, playing with the children as a companion.

Now to see the pet from those days advanced to the Second Order was quite a surreal experience for them.

“I’m not even a match for a dog...”

Lu Yun had vague memories of the Nine Netherhound, having played with it as a child.

Later on, as he grew older, his father had sent the Nine Netherhound to the mundane world as a guard dog, and he hadn’t seen it since.

He never imagined that, after so many years, he had only broken through to the Sixth Level of Energy Refinement, while the once big black dog had become a Second Order Spiritual Beast.

“Father, I will surely take good care of Xiao Hei.”

Lu Yun immediately said respectfully.

“Mm, Xiao Hei is its nickname, its big name is Jiuyou.”

Lu Changsheng felt constantly calling it Xiao Hei really lowered the prestige of the Nine Netherhound.

After all, it was a Heaven Rank Demon Beast and now the openly recognized Clan Guardian Spirit Beast of his Lu Family.

“Jiuyou, good.”

Lu Yun nodded in agreement.

He also felt the name Xiao Hei was too commonplace.

“Why, Xiao He, you like this name?”

Chapter 866: The Nine Netherhound Breakthrough, Li Feiyu Returns!_2

At this moment, Lu Changsheng watched his daughter Lu Linghe stare intently at the Nine Netherhound in Lu Miaoge's arms and laughed.

“Yiya yiya~”

Lu Linghe babbled.

Although Lu Changsheng didn't understand baby talk, he still pinched her fair little cheek and said, “When you grow up, Daddy will give you one!”

According to the current lottery, the pets he acquired were basically cubs.

But he most likely wouldn't need these cubs himself.

...

Since that was the case, they could become pets for his children.

In the future, every prodigy of the Lu Family would have a Heaven Rank Spiritual Pet as standard!

“Linghe, thank your Daddy.”

Holding her son, Ling Zixiao smiled softly and said to her daughter.

Although she didn't know where these top-tier demon beast cubs were coming from, having one grow alongside her children would greatly help their future cultivation!

“Yiya yiya~”

Lu Linghe chattered on.

Although she was only a few months old, it was evident that this daughter was much more lively than her brother Lu Lingxiao.

This reminded Lu Changsheng of his son Lu Qingshan and his daughter Lu Qingzhu in the past.

One was lively and the other was quiet.

...

Dawn broke with a pale light and clear skies.

“Screech!”

A black-winged golden-beaked eagle soared through the sky, flying over the Starfall Chess Arrangement Mountain Range and diving downwards.

“Is this Bi Lake Mountain?”

On the eagle, a middle-aged man around forty, with a heroic face, dressed in a black brocade robe, looked forward to the continuous mountains surrounding a vast, emerald green Bi Lake Mountain and said.

Moments later, the eagle landed outside Bi Lake Mountain, kicking up a gust of wind.

“Who goes there, may I ask your business at Bi Lake Mountain!?”

The disciple guarding the gate shouted upon seeing the visitor.

One of the disciples, dressed in the apparel of Bi Lake Mountain and a member of the Lu Family, showed surprise on seeing the heroic figure in a black robe, hesitantly asked with some uncertainty, “You are Uncle Li?”

“Indeed, it’s me.”

Li Feiyu smiled slightly as he was recognized by the other, but he couldn’t immediately recall the other’s name.

When he left years ago, aside from individuals like Lu Ping'an who were in their teens, most of the children were still toddlers.

Now, more than twenty years had passed, and those children had grown up.

Even as a cultivator with extraordinary memory, he could not fully recognize them from their childhood features.

“Uncle Li, please wait here while I go inform the Family Head, my father.”

The Lu family's descendant said.

He recognized Li Feiyu, but still followed protocol and did not open the gate immediately, instead going to notify the Family Head.

...

Lu Family Mansion.

“That's wonderful, my Zhenzhen is really amazing!”

Lu Changsheng was with Qu Zhenzhen and Bai Ling, hearing that Qu Zhenzhen had finished the refinement of the Auspicious Tree and begun proper refinement.

As for Lu Miaohuan, since the Abyssal Ghouls Blossom was a level more difficult, it would take much longer to refine.

Just then, Lu Yun came to the outside of the hall to inform that Li Feiyu had arrived.

“Uncle Li?”

Lu Changsheng was startled, then reacted with surprise and excitement, “You mean Feiyu is here?”

“Yes, it is indeed Li Feiyu, Uncle Li.”

Lu Yun nodded.

He knew his father and Li Feiyu had a good relationship but was unclear on the specifics.

“Good.”

Lu Changsheng nodded in response, immediately transformed into an Escape Light and flew out from Bi Yun Peak, heading to the mountain gate.

He had been concerned about Li Feiyu’s safety ever since the Substitute Talisman had transmitted a signal.

Knowing now that Li Feiyu had returned safely filled him with joy.

“Mountain Master, Father!”

The guarding cultivators saw Lu Changsheng and immediately bowed in salute.

“Mm.”

Lu Changsheng nodded, opened the gate, and with a smile said to the heroic figure in a black brocade robe, Li Feiyu, “Feiyu, you have finally returned.”

“I encountered some unexpected events, which led to the delay.”

Li Feiyu said with some emotion.

He certainly remembered the time frame he had promised before.

So, after breaking through to Foundation Establishment, he had settled his affairs in Azure Phoenix Immortal City and immediately hurried back.

“It seems the unexpected events worked out for the best, congratulations on your breakthrough to Foundation Establishment.”

Lu Changsheng, whose Divine Sense now surpassed most at the Foundation Establishment Peak, noticed at a glance that Li Feiyu had broken through Foundation Establishment.

“Foundation Establishment!?”

The people nearby were astonished to hear this, looking at Li Feiyu with surprise.

They had not expected that he was a Foundation Building Great Cultivator!

A look of respect instantly appeared in their eyes.

“It was just some luck, and actually, I owe a lot to you, Changsheng.”

Li Feiyu said earnestly.

“Oh, it’s related to me?”

Lu Changsheng raised an eyebrow with interest.

“Let’s go inside and talk.”

He didn’t ask further and invited Li Feiyu into Bi Lake Mountain.

“This Bi Lake Mountain surrounded by hills and water really looks pretty good.”

As the two flew toward Bi Yun Peak, Li Feiyu looked around at the scenery and commented.

As a Foundation Establishment Cultivator, who had spent many years wandering the outside world, he had some discernment.

He could see that the environment and Spiritual Energy of Bi Lake Mountain were exceptional.

“Ha ha ha, indeed it is quite nice.

Lu Changsheng laughed loudly, introducing the situation of his home to his friend: “That mountain up ahead is Bi Yun Peak, the main vein of my Lu Family.

“That one is called Lingcui Cliff, our family’s Spirit Medicine garden, and over there lies Bi Shui Lake, where we breed aquatic life. You may have heard of the Red Blood Carp and Blue Blood Carp, but recently I bred some aquatic Spiritual Beasts...”

“Changsheng, you are truly enjoying life, with the family being so well-ordered.”

Li Feiyu said with emotion, admiring the surroundings.

For the years he had been outside striving and cultivating, he sometimes considered whether to give it all up and settle down.

Having a Family Spirit Land of one’s own and not drifting about is probably the ultimate dream for a Loose Cultivator.

Chapter 867: The Nine Netherhound Breakthrough, Li Feiyu Returns!_3

“You’ve now broken through to Foundation Establishment. If you wish, you can also seek out a Spirit Land and establish a family just like I did,” Lu Changsheng said with a laugh.

“I’ll think about that later,” Li Feiyu said gently shaking his head.

He thought the life was nice but he didn’t entertain such notions, especially since he had just gained the opportunity to join the Azure Phoenix Guards under the Azure Phoenix Immortal.

As long as he seized this chance, he hoped to break through to the Middle Stage and Late Stage of Foundation Establishment in the future!

“Alright, Bihu Mountain welcomes you anytime,” Lu Changsheng said without trying to persuade him further.

He could tell that Li Feiyu’s Dao Heart was very firm.

...

People like this usually didn’t stop in their tracks to choose a comfortable life.

The two of them arrived at Bi Yun Peak.

“Uncle pays his respects to Li Feiyu,” Lu Yun was waiting outside and immediately greeted Li Feiyu when he saw him.

Although his memory was a bit fuzzy and he didn’t quite recognize Li Feiyu, he could still identify him.

“This is Lu Yun. Feiyu, you should remember him,” Lu Changsheng said to Li Feiyu.

“So it’s Lu Yun. Time flies; he’s grown so much,” Li Feiyu said, realizing the other was the son of Miaoyun, the Fourth Elder of the Lu Family. His expression revealed a hint of nostalgia.

He hadn’t gone home on this visit.

Over twenty years had passed by now, and his own children were likely settled down.

He took a bracelet from his Storage Bag and said, “Here, this is a gift from your Uncle Li.”

“Ha, Feiyu, there’s no need to be polite. Otherwise, your Storage Bag may not be enough for all the gifts,” Lu Changsheng teased with a smile.

“Those who come first get first served,” Li Feiyu said chuckling, and he let Lu Yun accept the bracelet.

But Lu Yun didn't know if he should accept it.

“Since it's a gift from your Uncle Li with all his heart, Yun'er, you should take it,” Lu Changsheng said when he saw his honest son hesitating.

He never liked this kind of excessive formality.

The two arrived at the Lu Family Mansion.

Lu Changsheng briefly introduced Li Feiyu.

Miaoyun, Qu Zhenzhen, and others were quite surprised when they saw Li Feiyu and learned that he had broken through to Foundation Establishment.

After all, in the Qingyun Region, a Foundation Establishment Cultivator could be considered an ancestor of a domain!

Li Feiyu, with a Low-Quality Spiritual Root who had been an idle son-in-law in Qingzhu Mountain for years, had somehow broken through to Foundation Establishment upon his return.

Especially Miaoyun.

She came from Qingzhu Mountain and knew the difficulty of Foundation Establishment.

For many years, Qingzhu Mountain had only just managed to continue the lineage of Foundation Establishment until the situation had recently improved.

Who would have thought that among the Immortal Seedlings brought back by Uncle Yuan Ding, two Foundation Establishment Cultivators, Lu Changsheng and Li Feiyu, would emerge!

If word got out, it would be nothing short of astonishing!

“Tsck...” Li Feiyu looked at the many women and children in his home, thinking that his good brother had truly not forgotten his beginnings and had always stayed constant.

Thinking about how he fought for his life outside while Lu Changsheng lived such a life and broke through to Foundation Establishment with ease, even with his firm Dao Heart, he couldn't help but feel envious.

However, he was happy to see his good brother's life getting better and better.

After a while, someone arranged for food and drinks, and the two went to the side hall to catch up and chat.

"It's also a matter of fate and fortune," Li Feiyu said, holding his wine cup and recounting his experience: "That day, in the Myriad Beasts Mountain Range, I ran into an old nemesis who chased me and encountered a Second Order Monster Beast blocking the way."

"Facing such a situation, it was like facing certain death, but thankfully, it was the Talisman you gave me, Changsheng, that saved my life."

"Then, under the transportation of the Talisman, I arrived deep in the Myriad Beasts Mountain Range, and guess what happened next?"

Li Feiyu continued.

Lu Changsheng was speechless.

He had previously speculated that if Li Feiyu encountered danger in the Myriad Beasts Mountain Range, if the Substitute Talisman transported him deeper, that would be dangerous.

He had not expected such a situation to actually occur.

"Could it be that you just happened to come across some Cave Mansion or Secret Realm, or perhaps some treasure?" Lu Changsheng asked, raising an eyebrow.

"Correct, but you definitely couldn't guess the situation at the time," Li Feiyu continued, taking a bite of his food: "Didn't you have a treasure map of an ancient relic site before? I was just transported right outside the relic marked on the treasure map."

“Amazing,” Lu Changsheng said after a moment of silence, uttering two words.

Whether following the plot of a novel or as a character favored by luck in the Cultivation World, Li Feiyu had indeed obtained a main character’s template.

He continued to ask, “Isn’t that relic deep in the Myriad Beasts Mountain Range supposed to be dangerous?”

The treasure map contained information on the relics, with many hidden dangers and challenges.

It would not be simple for Li Feiyu, who was at the Qi Refinement Realm, to gain something from it.

“No, I didn’t explore that relic site. There, I happened to meet the Azure Phoenix Immortal,” Li Feiyu said.

“The Azure Phoenix Immortal? The number one Independent Cultivator of Jiang Kingdom and the City Lord of Azure Phoenix Immortal City?” Lu Changsheng exclaimed in surprise.

“Yes, by providing information from the treasure map to the Azure Phoenix Immortal, I was granted this chance to break through to Foundation Establishment!”

“And the Azure Phoenix Immortal promised that if I broke through to Foundation Establishment, I would be allowed to join the Azure Phoenix Guards, and if the breakthrough failed, I would be given a sum of Spirit Stones,” Li Feiyu affirmed.

After finishing, he got up, took out a Storage Bag with a serious expression, and said, “Changsheng, my obtaining this opportunity is largely thanks to you. This is a little token of my gratitude.”

“Tsk tsk tsk,” Lu Changsheng marveled at Li Feiyu’s fortune and saw his friend suddenly act this way, immediately waving his hand and saying, “Feiyu, you’re being too formal. You’ve just broken through to Foundation Establishment and need resources. There’s no need for this.”

He had no interest in the ancient relic site from the treasure map.

Seeing his friend obtain the opportunity for Foundation Establishment through it, he was happy for him and felt it was worth it.

“Just accept it, Changsheng; otherwise, I really can’t be at peace,” Li Feiyu insisted earnestly, placing the Storage Bag in front of Lu Changsheng.

Chapter 868: The Nine Netherhound Breakthrough, Li Feiyu Returns!_4

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This Spirit Stone was obtained after he broke through to Foundation Establishment and took revenge by killing Zhu He, then selling off his possessions for Spirit Stones.

But he knew that compared to the opportunity he had obtained, these Spirit Stones were hardly worth mentioning.

“Okay.”

Lu Changsheng understood his friend’s character and nodded in agreement.

At that moment, he suddenly thought of the rumors about Azure Phoenix Immortal’s injuries and asked aloud, “Feiyu, I’ve heard Azure Phoenix Immortal was gravely injured; is that true or false?”

...

“Could the Immortal have been injured while exploring this Ancient Relic Site?”

Lu Changsheng asked in such a manner.

“The news might be true, or it might be a deliberate release by Azure Phoenix Immortal City.”

“I previously swore a Heart Demon Oath not to speak of what is within the relic site,” Li Feiyu spoke in a low voice.

“Azure Phoenix Immortal City deliberately released it.”

Lu Changsheng narrowed his eyes slightly, feeling that these words carried a more intriguing implication.

He pondered and said, “I remember Azure Phoenix Immortal isn’t young anymore, right?”

“Indeed, the City Lord was already famous two hundred years ago; by now, he should be three to four hundred years old.”

“Therefore, there are rumors that the City Lord has reached the Core Formation Peak long ago and has been out of the public eye for these years, all in pursuit of the Nascent Soul,” Li Feiyu said with a touch of emotion.

From a Loose Cultivator to his current status, aiming for the Nascent Soul, Azure Phoenix Immortal could be considered legendary!

“Three to four hundred years old...”

Lu Changsheng nodded.

Once a Nascent Soul Cultivator exceeds three hundred and fifty years old, the probability of forming a Nascent Soul significantly decreases.

If they exceed four hundred years, there is essentially no hope of forming a Nascent Soul.

Azure Phoenix Immortal’s age makes it impossible to delay any longer, and it’s likely that all his actions in recent years have been driven by the pursuit of the Nascent Soul.

“Attaining the Nascent Soul is not easy. Our Jiang Country Cultivation Realm seems to only have the Heavenly Sword Sect with a Fourth-order Spirit Vein.”

Lu Changsheng took a light sip of his drink and continued to speak.

He had discussed this issue with Ling Zixiao and Xiao Xiyue before.

He knew that in the entire Jiang Country, only the Heavenly Sword Sect had a Fourth-order Spirit Vein capable of nurturing a Nascent Soul's foundation!

Even Qingyun Sect, Luoxia Sect, and Spirit Taming Sect only had Third-Order Top Grade Spirit Veins.

And certainly, the Heavenly Sword Sect would not lend their Spirit Vein to Azure Phoenix Immortal for his breakthrough.

“That’s right, even after so many years of cultivation, Azure Phoenix Immortal City’s Spirit Vein is only a Third-Order Superior Grade, far from reaching the Fourth-order.”

“Moreover, Azure Phoenix Immortal City, located near the Myriad Beasts Mountain Range and on the border of Jiang Country and Yue Country, is a place neither side wants the City Lord to succeed in forming a Nascent Soul,” Li Feiyu shook his head and said.

He had been won over by the various deeds and personal charisma of Azure Phoenix Immortal in his early years.

Now that he had become a member of Azure Phoenix Immortal City and had contact with this legendary figure, he held even greater admiration.

“Tsk tsk tsk.”

Lu Changsheng clicked his tongue in wonder, thinking to himself just how difficult it was to break through to the Nascent Soul.

As a Loose Cultivator in Jiang Country, break through to Core Formation is possible.

But to break through to the Nascent Soul, without going to another country or seeking opportunities abroad, there was virtually no chance.

In the future, forming his own Nascent Soul would also pose the same issue.

However, this was still too far away; the matter of Core Formation hadn't even been decided upon yet.

"Feiyu, now that you've joined Azure Phoenix Immortal City, do you plan to return afterward?" Lu Changsheng looked at Li Feiyu and asked.

"Yes, once I've settled my family's situation back home, I'll go back," Li Feiyu said, his expression somewhat grave.

Pursuing the Great Dao inevitably meant leaving behind many emotional ties.

His return this time was intended to take care of all his family matters.

"Okay, let me know when you're heading to Ruyi Prefecture. I'll go with you," Lu Changsheng nodded and said.

The Lu Family now also had a certain influence in Ruyi Prefecture.

Moreover, his children were related by marriage to Li Feiyu's children, so it was the right time to visit.

"Mm."

Li Feiyu nodded in response.

“`

...

Li Feiyu had stayed on Bi Lake Mountain for three days before he set out for Ruyi Prefecture with Lu Changsheng.

Qu Zhenzhen, having completed the ritual refinement of the Auspicious Tree, could not leave Bi Lake Mountain once she began to cultivate the Heavenly Longevity Technique.

Thus, accompanying them was also to prepare for a later visit to Zhoushan Mansion to pay homage to her parents.

And as it happened, Lu Wangshu had heard about it and was curious to see what his secular family home was like.

In this way, Lu Changsheng, along with his wife, children, and Li Feiyu, arrived in Ruyi Prefecture.

The arrival of these individuals in Ruyi Prefecture caused no small stir for the Li family and Hong Yi.

After all, Li Feiyu, who had been away for more than twenty years, had returned!

Li Feiyu's wife and children were somewhat incredulous upon seeing him and hesitated to recognize him.

"Sigh."

Lu Changsheng, seeing such a scene, sighed inwardly.

In the face of such a situation, Li Feiyu simply entrusted his family to Lu Changsheng, hoping he would help take care of them in the future.

He then left his father and brothers some Elixir Medicines, Talisman Scriptures, and a basic Cultivation Technique.

Upon learning of Li Feiyu's breakthrough to Foundation Establishment, Hong Yi felt a mix of emotions.

He thought back to the time when the six of them had taken the Immortal Sects' assessment together, and now four had achieved Foundation Establishment!

They had become lofty Foundation Building Great Cultivators!

Although Han Lin had not made a breakthrough to Foundation Establishment,

he was nonetheless far superior to him in status, thanks to his Artifact Refining skills and his identity as an Immortal Sect disciple.

“If I had focused on cultivation instead of getting involved in the affairs of power, might I have had the hope of reaching Foundation Establishment?”

Hong Yi mused to himself.

He suspected that Zhao Qingqing’s breakthrough had something to do with Lu Changsheng.

Now, after conversing and learning that Li Feiyu’s Foundation Establishment owed much to Lu Changsheng,

he couldn’t help but think that with his relationship with Lu Changsheng, had he seriously cultivated earlier, perhaps Foundation Establishment would have been possible for him.

But after some deliberation, he realized he simply did not possess Li Feiyu’s determination to forsake everything for the sake of Cultivation!

Even now, at the Ninth Level, given a Foundation Establishment Elixir, his chances of making that breakthrough were virtually nil.

...

Black Cloud Mountain Range.

Deep within a mining vein.

“Miss Lu, why bother?”

“Although Bi Lake Mountain offers good terms, to my knowledge, you’re hardly valued and your prospects for Foundation Establishment are slim.”

“If you agree to cooperate with White Tiger Mountain, my Zhao Family is willing to share ten percent of the profits from this Spirit Stone mine with you.”

“Furthermore, if you are willing to marry into my Zhao Family, not only will you not lack for resources, but you will also get a share of Foundation Establishment Spiritual Objects in the future!”

The Zhao Family elder tried to persuade Lu Ruyi, who was bound before him.

He had not expected the matter with the mining vein to be detected so quickly by this young girl.

She had stealthily infiltrated with the help of an invisibility Talisman and discovered the Spirit Stone mine concealed by a Formation.

“Elder Zhao, if you release me now, I can overlook this incident as if it never happened.”

“Otherwise, should anything happen to me, once my Family learns of it and investigates, the Zhao Family will not be able to escape responsibility.”

Lu Ruyi said coldly.

Though she had an Eighth Grade Spiritual Root and her mother was a concubine, not garnering much attention in the family,

at least she had a good family environment without any intrigue or sordid schemes.

Her brothers, like Lu Ping’an and Lu Xianzhi, took good care of her as their sister.

And not only did the Family provide plentiful resources for her and her siblings, but they also offered a variety of choices for lifestyles, which was a hundred times better than other families.

She knew well that, in most families with her level of talent, the ultimate fate was alliance through marriage to another Family.

But in the Blue Lake Mountain Lu Family, she had the right to choose!

Especially now, when many smaller families in the surrounding area took pride in marrying into the Blue Lake Mountain Lu Family!

She really didn't hold White Tiger Mountain's Zhao Family in high regard!

"Miss Lu, I urge you to think it over carefully."

"After all, Demon Beasts frequently roam the Black Cloud Mountain Range. It would be quite normal for you to encounter danger here and be devoured by a Demon Beast."

Seeing his polite entreaties fall on deaf ears, the Zhao Family elder said with a cold voice.

He then instructed two of the family's young people to keep a close watch on Lu Ruyi.

Chapter 869: White Tiger Mountain and Golden Dragon Ridge, Dragon Seeker!

Ruyi County City.

Li Feiyu had been settling family matters these days.

Lu Changsheng, on the other hand, had been taking his wife and children on trips around the area.

"Um!?"

Just then, Lu Changsheng felt an inexplicable sensation surge through his heart.

Given the previous situation with Li Feiyu, he could confirm that it was his 'Substitute Talisman' being used.

...

“Who could it be? It doesn’t seem like Ping’an or Qingshan, Qingzhu?”

Lu Changsheng was puzzled in his heart.

The sensation was very faint.

Yet, he could somehow sense that this Talisman use was not like before with Li Feiyu, originating from a distant place.

“Could it be Xianzhi, Ruyi, or Quanzhen who are in danger?”

He furrowed his brows, guessing in his heart.

Currently, there were fourteen Lu family disciples out handling family matters.

Apart from Lu Ping’an, Lu Qingshan, and Lu Qingzhu who were not around,

the other Lu family disciples had not traveled far.

They were just managing business and family affairs in the surrounding area.

This was why there had never been any mishaps among the Lu family disciples.

After pondering for a while, Lu Changsheng exhaled lightly and said, “Zhenzhen, there is something at home, I need to go back.”

“Dear, what happened at home?”

Qu Zhenzhen immediately asked with concern.

“Um, just a small matter that needs to be handled.”

Lu Changsheng said softly.

Hearing this, Qu Zhenzhen did not continue to inquire further.

Soon after, Lu Changsheng returned to the county city, informed Li Feiyu that he needed to go back due to some issues.

“Changsheng, is there something wrong?”

Li Feiyu, hearing that Lu Changsheng needed to return suddenly, immediately asked.

“Do you remember the Talisman I gave you? I refined it with my heart’s blood, so I can sense it vaguely.”

“Not long ago, I sensed that a Talisman had been activated; it must be one of the children at home who is in danger.”

After a moment of contemplation, Lu Changsheng spoke.

“I’ll come with you; maybe I can be of some help.”

Li Feiyu immediately offered.

“Heh, no need for such a big fuss; it might just be a Robber Cultivator threat.”

Lu Changsheng shook his head and chuckled.

As he saw it, their children were only active around the area, and the only possibility was encountering a nomadic Robber Cultivator.

However, considering the flaws of the Substitute Talisman, that being its erratic teleportation,

should this child, like Li Feiyu, be transported to a dangerous place, it would then be troublesome.

“It’s fine, I’ve almost dealt with the situation here.”

Li Feiyu said.

“Alright, since that’s the case, let’s go back and check.”

Lu Changsheng, seeing this, nodded.

He then took his wife and children and headed back to Blue Lake Mountain.

...

Black Cloud Mountain Range.

Wu Jing Mine Site.

Besides the Zhao Family disciples managing the operations here as Cultivators, most of the miners were ordinary humans.

However, to be a miner here, one needed to be skilled in the Martial Path.

Otherwise, even with a Magic Artifact, it would be impossible to endure the intense workload day and night.

“Um?”

Outside the mine, an elder in a purple robe, who felt something, hurried out of the room.

He immediately saw an old man in his fifties, with gray hair and a tall stature, descending from a flying boat.

He hurriedly stepped forward to greet him, "Ancestor, what brings you here?"

This purple-robed elder was none other than the Zhao Family Ancestor from White Tiger Mountain.

"Elder Nine, what have you done? I asked you to be careful, and in such a short time, this girl has come to know about the Spirit Stone mine!?"

The Zhao Family Ancestor spoke sternly, disappointed.

This Spirit Stone mine was not large, just a small vein.

If mined with full effort, it could be exhausted in three to five years.

So, he thought that even if it were mined for a year or two, by the time it was discovered by the Blue Lake Mountain, it wouldn't matter.

Yet, it had only been a few months since they began mining, and it had already been discovered by the other side.

Moreover, the situation had become so stiff, which truly annoyed him.

"Ancestor, please forgive me."

The purple-robed elder immediately bowed, his face showing a bitter expression, "I didn't expect that this girl would notice something was off and later entered the mine with a Stealth Talisman to investigate."

"What about this girl now? Is she willing to cooperate?"

The Zhao Family Ancestor asked coldly.

"Ancestor, this girl is tough and unyielding; why not use the Demon-attracting Fragrance and just throw her into the mountain range?"

“Demons often appear in this Black Cloud Mountain Range, and for a Sixth Level Energy Refinement girl to die out there would be nothing unusual.”

“Even if Blue Lake Mountain has suspicions, they couldn’t possibly blame our family, could they?”

“Moreover, I’ve inquired about it, Blue Lake Mountain relies solely on Lu Changsheng and his wives, and currently, they don’t have many capable children.”

“By the time Blue Lake Mountain arranges for someone else to come, who knows when it will be; by then, we would have almost mined this vein.”

The purple-robed elder spoke.

In his view, although she was from the Blue Lake Mountain Lu Family, Lu Changsheng’s daughter.

Yet, with Lu Changsheng having a hundred or two children, losing one or two would be unnoticed.

Could they really cause a big stir and trouble their Zhao Family for that?

“Lu Changsheng takes relationships very seriously, he values feelings greatly,”

“When he established the Blue Lake Mountain, he spent thousands of Spirit Stones to bring his secular wives and children to Blue Lake Mountain and even held a wedding with his mortal wives.”

“Even if this girl isn’t valued, try your best not to let him suspect our Zhao Family in this matter,”

The Zhao Family Ancestor’s demeanor remained calm as he spoke coldly.

He was eager to swallow this Spirit Stone mine, but if possible, he preferred not to provoke Blue Lake Mountain.

After all, the couple of Blue Lake Mountain Lu Changsheng and Lu Miaoge, both practiced the Dual Cultivation Technique, making their combat strength extraordinary.

They also had Ling Zixiao, an Array Master.

“Ancestor, since that’s the case, we just need to pretend to let this girl escape and secretly have someone follow her.”

“When she is on her way back to Blue Lake Mountain, disguise as a Robber Cultivator and eliminate her. By then, Blue Lake Mountain can’t possibly blame our Zhao Family.”

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The Purple Robed Elder continued to speak,

At his age, having spent so many years in the Cultivation World, he naturally had carried out many such deeds.

Or rather, it could be said that most cultivators who live to an old age possess some means.

“Hmm, just do as you said.”

Upon hearing this, the Zhao Family Ancestor pondered for a moment and then nodded, “At that time, I will take action myself.”

“Where is the girl?”

...

He continued, preparing to confirm the situation to ensure nothing goes wrong.

“Elder Ancestor, right this way, please.”

The Purple Robed Elder immediately spoke respectfully.

A moment later,

The two arrived at a damp and dark mine.

“Where is the person!? I asked you where is the person!?”

The Purple Robed Elder looked at the emotionally blank puppet Lu Ruyi in the mine, his face twisted with rage, loudly questioning two Zhao family juniors.

It was not only him; the Zhao Family Ancestor also had an extremely cold expression, his fists tightly clenched.

Once Lu Ruyi had discovered the Spirit Stone mine, there was only a dead end for her!

Even if she surrendered and married into their Zhao family, her future held only death!

But now, the person had disappeared, leaving only a puppet!?

“Elder Ancestor, Elder, we truly do not know what happened.”

The two Zhao family juniors, terrified, trembled and knelt to beg for mercy.

“How could you handle things like this? He, Lu Changsheng, a Talisman Master by origin, his children surely would possess life-saving talismans. Could it be that you did not even know to search the body and check thoroughly!?”

The Zhao Family Ancestor, looking at the Purple Robed Elder, spoke with a voice filled with murderous rage.

With such an incident occurring, once Lu Ruyi returned to Bihu Lake Mountain, their Zhao family would be in danger!

Had it not been for the fact that the man before him was his own brother, he would have wished to strike him down.

“Elder Ancestor, I have already seized the girl’s storage bag and checked her body. There absolutely were no magic artifacts, talismans, or treasures!”

The Purple Robed Elder hastily explained.

He then, with bloodshot eyes, continued to question the two Zhao family juniors about what happened.

The two Zhao family juniors also realized the gravity of the situation.

Finally, with grimaces on their faces, they truthfully confessed that since Lu Ruyi had been unwilling to submit, they had planned to apply some means to force her compliance.

Who could have expected that Lu Ruyi would suddenly emit a layer of white light from her body and then transform into a wooden puppet?

Faced with this situation, they also did not know what to do and were just discussing how to report this.

Then the Elder Ancestor and the elder arrived.

“Useless trash, you truly deserve to die!”

Upon hearing this, the Zhao Family Ancestor was so enraged that he directly kicked the two men.

The kick sent the two Zhao family juniors flying out, smashing hard against the mine’s stone wall and spitting blood.

Not only had the two caused such an issue,

But when a problem arose, they had not immediately reported it!

Had he not personally come over, by the time the news meandered its way back to their family from the mine, Lu Changsheng might have already reached their White Tiger Mountain.

By then, his family would surely be facing a dead end!

“Elder Ancestor, what do we do now?”

The Purple Robed Elder, also looking distressed, inquired, unsure of what to do.

“What to do? You still have the face to ask me what to do!?”

On hearing this, the Zhao Family Ancestor became angry again and kicked towards the Purple Robed Elder.

Pointing at the ground at the puppet he said, “This girl clearly escaped using a talisman. You couldn’t even manage this properly and you’ve messed everything up; why don’t you just go die!”

To be at such an age and still fail to properly search someone, allowing them to escape, it made the Zhao Family Ancestor tremble with rage.

The Purple Robed Elder tried to argue and insisted that he really had conducted a thorough search.

But at this moment, with the facts before his eyes, he knew that any explanation was pointless.

He immediately clenched his teeth and said, “Elder Ancestor, she must have left just a short while ago; why don’t you take me to Bihu Lake Mountain to ask for forgiveness.”

“Claiming that you did not know about this matter, that it had nothing to do with White Tiger Mountain, and that it was entirely my fault.”

The Purple Robed Elder thus spoke.

Knowing that only by doing this, could he potentially diminish the gravity of the situation.

“This issue is not as simple as you think; rumors from outside claimed that Lu Changsheng is famously easy-going, do you really think he is easy to provoke?”

“How did Bihu Lake Mountain come about, and what happened to the Yu Family in the end!?”

“This man has connections within Qingyun Sect; perhaps when the Yu Family colluded with the Demon Path, it was all Lu Changsheng’s deliberate scheme, utterly ruthless and thorough!”

“Now that Bihu Lake Mountain has three Foundation Establishment Cultivators and a Dao Companion from Qingyun Sect, with the family flourishing, just a couple more Foundation Establishment, and the family’s Spirit Land would no longer suffice. Given this chance, how could he let this go and make it small!”

As the Zhao Family Ancestor spoke more, the more enraged and fearful he became.

Never had he expected such a small matter to be bungled.

He couldn’t help but regret; had he known this would happen, he might as well have disclosed the Spirit Stone mine matter himself.

Given the current situation of Bihu Lake Mountain, his own family might have managed to gain some benefits.

“Elder Ancestor, then what should we do.”

The Purple Robed Elder, upon hearing this, spoke with a mournful expression.

He, of course, understood that from a son-in-law to his position today, Lu Changsheng’s dealings in the dark were certainly not simple.

Just establishing a family and acting as a family head, whether for himself or his family, he usually took great care of his reputation.

“In the early years, our White Tiger Mountain and Golden Dragon Ridge shared some fellowship; though the Spirit Stone mine is not large, if we present it, it might be possible to persuade Golden Dragon Ridge to step in and help.”

“After all, with Bihu Lake Mountain rising day by day, Golden Dragon Ridge would not want to see our family in trouble.”

The Zhao Family Ancestor said with an ugly expression.

Golden Dragon Ridge and White Tiger Mountain’s founding elders were sworn brothers.

Thus, the two families had always supported each other and had a very good relationship.

But a hundred years ago, for some unknown reason, there was a huge fallout between the elders of the two families, cutting off their relations and ever since, their relationship had cooled.

Unexpectedly, the elder of Golden Dragon Ridge broke through to a False Core!